

Two-goal Dylan brightens up gloomy friendly

By STUART EARP

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Letchworth 0

TWO goals by striker Dylan Evans steered Wycombe Wanderers to a comfortable victory over Athenian Leaguers Letchworth on Tuesday night in difficult conditions at Loakes Park.

Evans' second goal, Wycombe's fourth, was the highlight of an otherwise drab game that produced little entertainment for the sparse crowd. He ran in to meet a flighted cross by Paul Birdseye and left the goalkeeper absolutely stranded with a fierce half-volley from the edge of the box.

Tuesday's rain certainly made life difficult for the players. The pitch, which was used by the U.A.U. and British Police the previous day, churned up badly in the middle and it is as well Wanderers are playing their next three matches away.

Wycombe fielded a makeshift side for this hastily arranged friendly. Brian Stevenon took over in goal, Terry Reardon played in the centre-back role and Howard Kennedy moved up front for the first 45 minutes. As a result, the football was disjointed for much of the game and more passes went astray than found their intended target.

BELOW FORM

Dave Alexander and Kennedy were both badly below form with their distribution and although Graham Mackenzie worked hard and improved later, many of his passes were weakly hit and stuck in the mud.

Letchworth, second in the Athenian League Division One, battled bravely and looked to have a fine prospect in

full-back Steve Gear. Their front runners, however, were rarely given a chance by Wycombe's back four.

They were unlucky not to go ahead after 20 minutes when Bobby Tuffs bent a free-kick around the Wycombe wall and saw his effort hit the upright and bounce clear. Seconds later, goalkeeper Tim Saward saved well from Evans.

Paul Birdseye eventually opened the scoring after half-an-hour. Evans made the goal with a swift break from midfield. He waited for Birdseye to make his run into space and laid the ball off perfectly for Paul to drive past Saward. Two minutes later it was 2-0. From Alexander's corner, Mackenzie glanced in a header from the edge of the

six-yard box and although Gear cleared the ball, both referee and linesman had seen the ball cross the line.

After making a couple of half-time changes, Wanderers looked a bit better side in the second period and soon after Paul Griffiths had gone close with a 25-yard drive Evans pounced to make it 3-0. Griffiths slung over a long cross

which Mackenzie again reached with a fine header. This time it hit the upright and bounced out for Evans to slot home a simple goal.

With nine minutes left, Evans smashed home that superb half-volley after a fine run by Birdseye to complete the scoring.

WYCOMBE: B. Stevenon; P. Griffiths, T. Reardon, K. Mead, G. Hand; G. Mackenzie, P. Birdseye, D. Alexander; H. Kennedy (sub. A. Phillips 45 mins.); D. Evans, S. Perrin (sub. K. Searle 45 mins.).

LETCHWORTH: T. Seward; P. Gannon, P. Bowgett, J. Hough, S. Gear; J. Armatrong, P. Schanzenbecker, B. Henry; D. Dance, B. Tuffa, J. Daintree. Sub. R. Hill (not used).

Referee: D. Taylor (High Wycombe).

Half-time: 2-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Evans 2 (71, 81), Mackenzie (32), Birdseye (30).

Approximate attendance: 100.

take on high running. One club League, Division One, currently second at Loakes Park. Letchworth, currently second in the table with games in hand on leaders Grays, have lost three of their 10 away games this term and in their matches against Marlow won 3-2 away and 3-0 at home. They must have been disappointed in failing to gain entry into the Rothmans Isthmian League last week. Wanderers are likely to give their other squad members a game tonight as several of the first team regulars are injured. Paul Birdseye has a swollen knee, Dave Bullock an injured ankle, and Howard Kennedy badly bruised lip, sustained during the Oxford game on Saturday. They will probably make way for Brian Stevenon, Paul Griffiths, Dave Alexander and Graham Mackenzie.